

From: David Hargett [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 10/28/2020 3:30:13 AM
Subject: Fwd: CF & LCNPreserve Recognized w/ National Award for Accessibility Enhancement

From: Dave Hargett [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Date: October 26, 2020 at 10:56:39 PM

To:

Subject: CF & LCNPreserve Recognized w/ National Award for Accessibility Enhancement

Over 12 miles of trails.
Over a mile of boardwalks. More than any state park in SC.
Over half are accessible.
And we are constantly improving it.
Today, 14 years of building the beloved asset that is,
"The Wildest Place in Greenville !!! "

Lake Conestee Nature Preserve

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CONGRATULATIONS TO US !!!

Fourteen years ago Today !!! we opened the first public access trails to what has grown to be Lake Conestee Nature Preserve. Those very first trails were made possible by a grant from the Recreational Trails Program as delivered in SC by our Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

These grants are funded by a tiny portion of tax funds paid on fuels for non-highway recreational vehicles. Administered by the Federal Highway Trust Fund, this is a good idea that has built trails for non-motorized and motorized recreational trails across America.

NOW, DOUBLE CONGRATULATIONS TO US !!!

Last week Conestee Foundation received a National Award from the Coalition for Recreational Trails for our recently completed Recreational Trails Grant (through SCPRT) for our "accessibility enhancements" to our trails. This was the only trail grant, among hundreds nationwide last year, to be awarded for such improvements. This is a really big deal !!! and we are deeply honored to be recognized for this achievement.

Our deepest thanks go to the Recreational Trails Grant program of SCPRT, and to the SCPRT team for nominating us for this national recognition.

Our partnership with SCPRT and their RTG program has been essential to building the over 12 miles of trails that have become the access infrastructure providing your pathways into the "Wildest Place in Greenville!"

The projects recognized through this award included the reconstruction of the West Bay Observation Deck, the Heron Spur ramp to access the WBOD, improvements to Woodie Walk to include a new ramp, a total rebuild of Raccoon Run boardwalk, and new ramps for the Lower Marrow Bone Boardwalk. Altogether a thousand ft of wetland boardwalks!

Remarkably, we were able to build these projects during the wettest 'water year' since 1901, and with two major floods that put all of our projects under water for days at a time.

None of these accessibility impaired access improvements is perfect but we are continuing to make every trail more accessible everywhere it makes sense.

We are continuing these efforts with our construction of a new ramp to connect our dramatic new River Otter Way bridge to the bogwalk connecting to Sparkleberry Island. For this project we need significant additional funds to complete the work, so please do pitch in !

Attached please see photos of several of the projects for which we received this national award, and a few images of some of our mobility impaired friends.

As a private non-profit organization, the Conestee Foundation staff does our very best to make our precious Preserve accessible to everyone.

Thank you for supporting our conservation and education programs!

DLH-201026

Dave Hargett, Ph.D.

Founder & Executive Director

Conestee Foundation / Lake Conestee Nature Preserve

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Conestee Foundation: a 501(c)(3) Conservation Organization - Established 2000

Owner & Steward of Lake Conestee Nature Preserve

LCNP: Celebrating 14 Years of Discovery !

An Important Bird Area of Global Significance

Upstate Partner with Audubon - South Carolina

Lake Conestee: A National Register of Historic Places Site

<http://conesteepereserve.org>

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